

farm. We are in the region of the sugar (maple trees,) Somerset county, and yesterday we had the delight to watch Brother Speicher making sugar, calling up childhood scenes of our native home in Ohio. The production of sugar and syrup is large this season, because a cold winter is always followed by a good sugar making season.

From the sugar camp we walked about a mile to see the Big Rock of Somerset county. This is one of nature's curious productions—an immense rifted rock, over fifty feet high. It is very apparent that at one time it was an entire rock, but now it is cleft in many directions, and its fissures are deep and narrow. After studying this great, strong and interesting rock, we can read a deeper meaning in that beautiful hymn:

"Rock of Ages cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee."

We are now at Listie where we find a few of the most energetic S. S. C. E. workers in the State of Pennsylvania. May God raise up more such loving hearts and willing hands to adorn our S. S. C. E. Jesus still blesses and multiplies the "loaves and fishes" when brought to Him. Praying God to bless the small silver offerings that are collecting in the Lord's treasury during our fruitful month of April, we await the result in His name.

VIANNA DETWILER.

Our Young People

In Life's Market Place

EMMA C. DOWD

What is the price of a frowning face?

The comfort of those most dear.

What is the price of an action base?

Peace and all good cheer.

What does it cost to fret and complain?

Beauty and health and youth.

What is the price of the love of gain?

Sometimes honor and truth.

What do they cost—those words that pierce?

Often, alas, a friend!

What is the price of a temper fierce?

The sweetness of life to its end.

What must you give for hatred and strife?

Happiness—all you control!

What is the cost of an evil life?

Ah, an immortal soul;

—Forward.

How Christ Makes Use of Common Lives

Mark 14: 12-16

Topic for April 23.

It is a great thing to be sure of one's calling in life. If one can say with Paul, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel" he is very apt to succeed in his preaching. We can see how God has plainly called some men and given them great success in their work but it is not so easy for us to see that He has a calling for our common lives and a work for the humblest to do and that we are expected to make the most of our one talent just as much as the more gifted one with ten and that our reward if we are faithful will be just as great as it would be if we had ten talents. God can do most with us when we most realize that we are utterly nothing without him.

He can take the common life and make it glorious in service. He called David from the sheep-cote and Elisha from the plow to take the throne and the prophet's staff. The disciples were chosen from the

ranks of the common people and the crowds who followed Jesus were of the same class. It is the same today. The kingdom is reaching, not the high and noble so much as the poor and helpless. The humblest member of it is greater than the mightiest person outside of it. It is not for all to preach or prophesy but all have some form of service to which they are called and if they are willing God will furnish open doors according to their ability.

1 The call of the kingdom is to all, John 3: 16; Acts 17: 30.

2 Hindrances of the rich and great, I Tim. 6: 9; Mt. 19: 23; Jas. 5: 1.

3 The common people called, I Cor. 1: 27; Jas. 2: 5; Luke 14: 11; Matt. 11: 25.

4 Used for service, Matt. 20: 28; Jas. 1: 27; Matt. 26: 31, 41.

5 Work according to ability, Matt. 25: 15.

6 Reward according to faithfulness, 2 Cor. 8: 12; Rev. 22: 12.

7 Examples of common lives used: The captive maid, II Kings 5: 25; the lad with loaves, John 6: 9; Mary, Mark 12: 37, etc.

QUESTIONS

1 What is meant by a "common life?"

2 Why are those with but one talent more prone to be slothful than those with more?

3 Does God expect as much from the common person as the gifted person?

4 May the common person receive as great a reward as the more talented person?

5 How has God used common lives in the past?

6 What are some humble ways of working for the common person?

7 How can our society use the service of the less gifted of its members?

8 For everybody. How can you use your talent to the best advantage?

C. F. YODER.

Sunday Excursions

J. M. BUCKLEY.

I wish to give good reasons to the young people for avoiding Sunday excursions of all kinds, and for refusing invitations to them, even when they come from those whom they think their best friends.

Sunday is the day set apart by Christian people to be devoted specially to reverent worship of God and the quiet enjoyment of home and friends, to rest, and to duties of kindness and charity. It rests upon God's decree that one day in seven shall be so devoted. To form the habit of disregarding such a day is an evil in itself, and puts out of one's reach many of the best things. Sunday excursionists consist of those who are forming or have formed such an evil habit.

More temptations beset the path of young people on that day than on any other. The people that make their money by encouraging dissipation are on that day out in full force, plying their arts, and often planting the seeds of wickedness in a soil which might never have been reached if those whom they beguile had not gone upon a Sunday excursion.

Temptations to spend more money than can be honestly obtained are multiplied on that day. I could give many instances of boys and girls who never had an evil habit or an evil companion until after they began to give Sunday to excursions. The crowds are so great that it is a day noted for accidents. But this is only one of the evil results of such crowds.

If a boy would say to me, "I am shut up

in school all the week. Why cannot I have an excursion on Sunday?" I should say to him, You have no school on Saturday, and you have a great deal of sport on your school days, before and after, at recess, besides the holidays and the vacations.

If a girl should say to me, "I work hard six days in the week in a shop;" or a young man, "I stand at my desk eight or ten hours a day in a confined position. Why is it wrong for me to have an excursion on Sunday?" to both of these I say, Your real interests will be better promoted by attending the house of God, the Sabbath school, the Epworth League or the Christian Endeavor meeting, together with a pleasant walk at a time when these duties do not keep you, than by joining the crowd of Sabbath breakers, losing the social and moral influences and the respect of your churchgoing friends, and being classed with those who regulate their lives by their desire for pleasure. All this you would do instead of being governed by an ambition to build up the best character, to make the best friendships, and to develop into the most useful and highly respected citizens.

If a boy of fourteen or fifteen, or a girl of the same age, should say, "I live in a very close part of the town. It is very hot in the summer. I am not able to go out into the country like some of my schoolmates. Would it be wrong for me to go to the park on Sunday and spend four or five hours there?" I should say that I should not find any fault if your parents saw fit to accompany you upon a walk on that day in the park or elsewhere, if you had attended church and Sabbath school. But you would not be wise to go there alone or with boys or girls of the same age. If you will think you will see that a company of boys and girls of your age in the park on Sunday would soon forget that it was Sunday, and if you did not forget it others would, and you would not be very happy together.

Sunday excursions are ruining thousands of boys and girls. Of the bicycle I wrote many things a year or two ago, and received many letters from young people about them; and all who had taken to bicycling for pleasure on Sunday, or to please persuasive friends, confessed to me, when asked the question, that it had led them into a general disregard of Sunday, indifference to church and Sunday school, and that, during the season, in looking forward to the day, the only thought they had about Sunday was whether it would be a clear day so that they might take to their wheels.

Beautiful is the year in its coming and in its going—most beautiful and blessed because it is always the "year of our Lord."—*Lucy Larcom.*

Life is not victory, but battle. . . . Be patient a little longer. By and by in our hushed and waiting chambers, each in his turn, we shall hear the sunset gun.—*R. D. Hitchcock, D. D.*